

A CHAMPION PLAN FOR FUTURE

AS A fore-runner to Isthmian League vice-chairman Barry East's "Four Year Plan," Wycombe Wanderers take on Midland League champions Alvechurch at Loakes Park tomorrow (Wednesday), writes Stuart Earp.

One section in East's plan is for a Champion of Champions competition between various league winners. The games, possibly on a league basis with cash bonuses for clubs, would be played on professional grounds. Officials from both Isthmian and Midland Leagues

will be present tomorrow.

Alvechurch have been steadily improving under manager Reece Davies. Many will remember their marathon F.A. Cup battle with Oxford City, which spanned no less than 11 hours before they finally sealed the result in their favour. It was the longest ever F.A. cup tie in history.

A somewhat tired Alvechurch side did well to hold Aldershot to 4-2 in the first round proper. All in all they had played 11 matches in just 18 days.

In the 1964/65 season they began their success story by

reaching the Amateur Cup quarter final and the following year went one better—losing 1-0 to Wealdstone at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea, after missing a penalty.

Last season they won the Midland League for the fourth time since 1962 and also added the League Challenge Cup—a trophy which has been at their Lye Meadow ground five times—to their belts. They have won the Birmingham Junior Cup four times (consecutively from 65 to 68) and the Worcester Junior Cup twice.

The last time they met

Wycombe was in a pre-season friendly, the Blues running out 4-1 winners on that occasion.

Wanderers in fact could well have something of a problem tomorrow regarding goalkeepers if John Maskell's ankle injury has not recovered. Kevin O'Brien, who has played in Maskell's absence for the last two matches, is away in Germany on business for two weeks.

Ian Rundle is also still doubtful and has been receiving treatment on Monday with Maskell. The third casualty John Delaney did not play in

the England Amateur team against Manchester United yesterday, and has also been at Farnham for treatment.

Robb Williams appeals against one of his three bookings on Monday at Lancaster Gate. It is expected that Jack Smethurst, the club chairman, will be accompanying him.